

## Message

**From:** Raffaele, Kathleen [raffaele.kathleen@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/18/2017 2:21:37 PM  
**To:** Freed, Elisabeth [Freed.Elisabeth@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - Michigan Bill proposes nation's toughest limit for water contaminants - 5ppt

Thanks!

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Kathleen Raffaele, Ph.D.

Senior Science Advisor  
 Policy Analysis and Regulatory Management Staff  
 Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)  
 U.S. EPA

Telephone (202) 566-0301

Mailcode 5103T

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**From:** Freed, Elisabeth  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2017 8:34 AM  
**To:** Raffaele, Kathleen <raffaele.kathleen@epa.gov>; Azad, Ava <Azad.Ava@epa.gov>; Dalzell, Sally <Dalzell.Sally@epa.gov>; Gaines, Linda <Gaines.Linda@epa.gov>; Anderson, RobinM <Anderson.RobinM@epa.gov>; Foster, Stiven <Foster.Stiven@epa.gov>; Cooke, Maryt <Cooke.Maryt@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: FYI - Michigan Bill proposes nation's toughest limit for water contaminants - 5ppt

Hi Kathleen,

I believe it was for PFOS and PFOA.

Peace, Elisabeth

*Elisabeth Freed* • USEPA/OECA/OSRE/PGB • (202) 564-5117 • [freed.elisabeth@epa.gov](mailto:freed.elisabeth@epa.gov) •

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**From:** Raffaele, Kathleen  
**Sent:** Monday, December 18, 2017 8:22:19 AM  
**To:** Freed, Elisabeth; Azad, Ava; Dalzell, Sally; Gaines, Linda; Anderson, RobinM; Foster, Stiven; Cooke, Maryt  
**Subject:** RE: FYI - Michigan Bill proposes nation's toughest limit for water contaminants - 5ppt

Elisabeth,

Thanks very much for forwarding. Do you know what specific chemicals were proposed for inclusion (i.e., was it PFOA/PFOA or a larger group of PFAS)?

Kathleen

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**From:** Freed, Elisabeth

**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2017 7:48 PM

**To:** Azad, Ava <Azad.Ava@epa.gov>; Dalzell, Sally <Dalzell.Sally@epa.gov>; Gaines, Linda <Gaines.Linda@epa.gov>; Anderson, RobinM <Anderson.RobinM@epa.gov>; Raffaele, Kathleen <raffaele.kathleen@epa.gov>; Foster, Stiven <Foster.Stiven@epa.gov>; Cooke, Maryt <Cooke.Maryt@epa.gov>

**Subject:** FYI - Michigan Bill proposes nation's toughest limit for water contaminants - 5ppt

Bill proposes nation's toughest limit for water contaminants

Published: Friday, December 15, 2017

A Michigan legislator is proposing that the state adopt the most stringent drinking water contamination limits in the country for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs), chemicals found in everything from shoes and cookware to firefighting foam.

State Rep. Winnie Brinks (D) introduced a bill this week with six Democratic co-sponsors that would set a PFAS standard of 5 parts per trillion. That's more than 10 times lower than the 70 ppt standard recommended by U.S. EPA in a 2016 health advisory and lower than the toughest current state standard of 20 ppt in Vermont. Brinks said he wants to "start a conversation" about PFAS chemicals, which have garnered attention in Michigan in recent years, with the state investigating nearly two dozen contaminated sites (*Greenwire*, Nov. 27).

A decades-old tannery sludge dump used by the shoemaker Wolverine Worldwide has been blamed for tainting private and municipal drinking water in Kent County.

Nationally, the chemicals have drawn attention around military installations in recent years. Two PFAS chemicals — PFOS and PFOA — were long used in firefighting foam on military air fields.

Some Republicans in the Michigan Legislature, like state Rep. Chris Afendoulis, say the state should wait for more solid science before setting the standard so low.

Brinks said she was open to a conversation.

"Maybe 5 ppt is not exactly the right number, but we need to start with a sufficiently low number that we're having a real conversation about actual health impacts with a specific level," she said. "From what I've read, 70 ppt is just way too high."

David Andrews, a scientist with the Environmental Working Group, a chemical advocacy group, said the important thing is that states join the conversation, since the EPA recommendation of 70 ppt is not enforceable.

"Federal drinking water regulations are failing to protect the public, but states do not have to rely on this broken system," Andrews said. "The fastest route to ensure clean drinking water is state action, such as the legislation introduced by Rep. Brinks to set more stringent limits for PFOA and PFOS contamination of water" (Garret Ellison, *Grand Rapids Press*, Dec. 14). — **NS**

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